

AS

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/991,400

Examiner

John L. Goff

Applicant(s)

PLOURDE, ERIC P.

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received 11/18/03 ~~the amendment received 11/18/03~~.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 03052004.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lindsay Adams on 3/5/04.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 9 after "fusing" insert - - only - -.

In claim 1, line 13 after "fusing" insert - - only- - and after "second" insert - - end - -.

In claim 2, line 2 after "disposed" insert - - only - -.
4. Claims 5-8 are cancelled as they are directed to the non-elected invention.
5. Claims 1-4 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art or record fails to teach or suggest a method for producing end seals on a continuous supply of fastener strip wherein the fastener strip is a preform for subsequent attachment to a thermoplastic web and wherein only the interlocking profiles are fused. Ohtsubo (U.S. Patent 6,511,406) shows a method for producing end seals on a continuous supply of fastener strip for subsequent attachment to a thermoplastic web wherein the entire transverse portion of the fastener strip is

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fused. Ohtsubo does not teach or suggest sealing the fastener strip only along the interlocking profiles. Van Erden et al. (U.S. Patent 6,017,412) show a method for producing end seals on a continuous supply of fastener strip wherein the transverse portion of the fastener strip is fused across the entire width or in spot seals. Van Erden et al. do not teach sealing the fastener strip to form a preform for subsequent attachment to a thermoplastic web. Furthermore, while Van Erden et al. suggest the transverse portion may be spot sealed without leading edges (the fastener strip still having trailing edges), Van Erden et al. do not suggest any embodiment (See Figures 5-8) sealing the fastener strip only along the interlocking profiles.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **John L. Goff** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1216**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:15 AM - 3:45 PM).

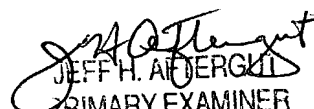
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John L. Goff
March 5, 2004



JEFF H. ALDERGHAT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300